



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Office of Public Affairs  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois Indiana  
Michigan Minnesota  
Ohio Wisconsin

## **Progress Report on Cleanup at the Kerr-McGee Residential Areas Superfund Site**

**West Chicago, Illinois**

**June 1997**

### **Current Status**

Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation is conducting a cleanup at the Kerr-McGee Residential Areas Superfund Site under a Unilateral Administrative Order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in November 1994. Cleanup began in May 1995 and will continue until all identified contaminated properties have been cleaned; U.S. EPA anticipates that the cleanup will continue through the year 2000. U.S. EPA is overseeing the cleanup. The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety is conducting the verification testing for U.S. EPA to confirm that the properties are clean.

As of June 1, 1997:

- 443      contaminated properties have been identified by U.S. EPA. Additional contaminated properties are continually being identified.
- 163      of the contaminated properties have been cleaned up and fully restored.
- 52,892   cubic yards of contaminated soil have been removed.

### **Work Remaining**

U.S. EPA currently estimates that by the time the project is complete, more than 500 properties will have been identified as contaminated and cleaned up. During 1995, the first year of the residential cleanup, Kerr-McGee cleaned up 44 properties. An additional 93 properties were cleaned up in 1996. Kerr-McGee is targeting 125 properties for cleanup in 1997; cleanup began in April and will continue through November. Following this construction season, work will continue for another 3 years, until the cleanup is complete.

### **Additional Information**

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## **Relevant Dates in the History of the Kerr-McGee Residential Areas Superfund Site**

**West Chicago, Illinois**

**June 1997**

1931-1973	Thorium extraction facility operated at 783 Factory Street. West Chicago, Illinois.
1973	Facility closed by current owner, Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (Kerr-McGee).
1984	U.S. EPA proposes these Residential Areas Site to the National Priorities List, making it eligible for cleanup assistance under the Superfund program.
1984-1985	Kerr-McGee and the City of West Chicago conduct voluntary cleanup work at residential properties in West Chicago.
1990	Residential Areas Site added to the National Priorities List.
March 1993	U.S. EPA proposes cleanup criteria for Residential Areas Site and presents the draft criteria to the community.
November 1993	U.S. EPA finalizes cleanup criteria for Residential Areas Site.
February 1994	U.S. EPA begins field investigation work at Residential Areas Site.
August 1994	U.S. EPA recommends a cleanup plan for the Residential Areas Site and portions of the Kress Creek Site. The recommended plan is a non-time-critical removal action with excavation of contaminated soil.
August 1994	U.S. EPA begins a 30-day period to accept and consider comments from the public on recommended cleanup plan.
November 1994	U.S. EPA finalizes its cleanup decision and issues a Unilateral Administrative Order to Kerr-McGee to conduct removal activities at the Residential Areas Site.
May 1995	Kerr-McGee begins removal of contaminated soil from residential properties, with U.S. EPA oversight.
November 1995	First construction season ends. Forty-four (44) properties were cleaned up and restored; 12,490 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed.
November 1996	Second construction season ends. Ninety-three (93) properties were cleaned and restored; 36,655 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed. (Cumulative totals: 137 properties cleaned; 49,145 cubic yards of soil removed.)
June 1, 1997	Third construction season in progress. Twenty-six (26) properties cleaned so far; 3,747 cubic yards of contaminated soil removed. (Cumulative totals: 163 properties cleaned; 52,892 cubic yards of soil removed.)